



MAYOR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 10, 2020

SPORTSFEST

Mother Nature cooperated and finally brought us some snow for our 21st annual SportsFest last weekend.

Many thanks to the organizations, businesses and individuals who took the time to set up events for our community to PORTicipate in.

Thanks to the PORTicipants who stayed warm playing volleyball, euchre, music trivia, swimming and gym activities at the YMCA and tasting at the soup cook off and to those a little more hearty who played hockey, snow golf, sno-pitch, active camp ball hockey.

And finally to the PORTicipants who were Freezin' for a Reason and raised over \$15,000 for Special Olympics by plunging into the chilly waters of Lake Erie under the watchful eye of our Water Rescue fire fighters and the public who showed up to cheer them on.

The City of Port Colborne hockey team also won the "D" division in the Mayor's Hockey Tournament. They had a 2 win 1 tie weekend. Great city crew and thanks to staff who participated.

Club Frontenac won the A division, Wainfleet won the B division and Grimsby won the C division.

CRUISING ON THE GREAT LAKES

This morning myself, the CAO and EDO met with Vice President of Maritime Operations of Viking Cruise Lines who was here from Switzerland to further discuss their plans to launch their new Expedition ships on the Great Lakes in 2022.

Port Colborne will be one of the ports where their ships will be stopping.

The Seaway was also at the meeting to discuss the mooring needs for these ships and will be working with us towards meeting these needs by 2022.

Stephen Burnett, executive director of the Great Lakes Cruising Coalition and Cruise Ontario, said the vessels will be custom-built so that they are able to get through the various locks along the itinerary route. "In order to build to a seaway maximum, the Viking folks worked with the seaway, they measured the locks to make sure they knew exactly the beam and the length they could build to. We have been doing this for 20 years and we have eight cruise ships that now commit themselves each spring to the Great Lakes."

The Viking Expedition ships will accommodate 385 passengers.

Two weeks ago we had Voyageur here and we took them down to the west wall near our old works yard and they will be stopping in Port Colborne starting in 2021.

This is great news for the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway and the City of Port Colborne.

BUDGET ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH M.P. BADAWEY

Also this morning I attended a budget roundtable discussion with Councillor Bruno facilitated by M.P. Badawey.

The following items were discussed:

- Trade corridors – seaway, highways, railways
- Community Improvement Funding for our Downtown
- Infrastructure funding for the Welland Canal, Seaway, including land development
- Mid-Peninsula Corridor with the first phase going from Fort Erie to Hwy 58
- Affordable Housing – funding, regulations and rules – this is not just a municipal, regional or provincial issue, it is now a federal issue
- Gas tax funds which were doubled last year
- Skilled trades – roundtable held last fall – federal government working with province and unions and education – includes the marine side of things – marine companies need skilled individuals coming into that trade
- Starting a Great Lakes Caucus which the US has had for several years – water levels, erosion, pollutions, fishing etc.
- Trade corridors money coming to Port Colborne
- Federal Development funds for companies who may want to come here

These initiatives align well with our needs in Port Colborne.